

In 1994 the rate of violent victimization of juveniles ages 12 through 17 was nearly 3 times that of adults

Except for murder, information on juvenile victims of violence is limited to those age 12 or older

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) interviews a nationally representative sample of households every 6 months and asks residents age 12 or older about the violence they experienced since the last interview. This effort collects information on the range of violent crimes (excluding murder for obvious reasons): rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

Juveniles are more likely than adults to be the victims of violent crime and be injured as a result

An analysis by Hashima and Finkelhor of 1994 NCVS data found:

- Juveniles ages 12–17 were nearly three times as likely as adults to be victims of violent crimes in 1994.
- Juveniles were almost three times as likely as adults to experience a crime-related injury; however, the rates of injury that required hospitalization were similar.
- The violent victimization rate for juvenile males was about 50% greater than for juvenile females.
- The violent victimization rate for younger juveniles (ages 12 to 14) was comparable to that of older juveniles (ages 15 to 17).
- The overall violent victimization rate for white juveniles was similar to that of black juveniles.
- More than two-thirds of juvenile violent victimizations were not reported to law enforcement.

In 1994 juveniles ages 12 through 17 experienced sexual assaults at twice the rate of adults and robberies at nearly three times the adult rate

Type of crime	Number of victimizations		Rate of victimizations (per 1,000)		Ratio of juvenile rate to adult rate
	Juveniles age 12–17	Adults	Juveniles age 12–17	Adults	
Violent crimes	2,625,600	8,235,100	116.3	43.1	2.7
Rape/sexual assault	76,500	356,300	3.4	1.9	1.8
Rape/attempted rape	43,300	248,700	1.9	1.3	1.5
Sexual assault	19,300*	54,200	0.9*	0.3	3.0
Verbal threat	6,900*	35,800	0.3*	0.2	1.6
Unwanted sexual contact without force	7,000*	17,600*	0.3*	0.1*	3.4
Robbery	263,900	1,034,900	11.7	5.4	2.2
Completed	160,900	634,200	7.1	3.3	2.1
With injury	50,300	237,400	2.2	1.2	1.8
Without injury	110,600	396,900	4.9	2.1	2.4
Attempted	103,000	400,600	4.6	2.1	2.2
With injury	12,000*	109,800	0.5*	0.6	0.9
Without injury	91,000	290,900	4.0	1.5	2.6
Assault	2,285,200	6,843,900	101.2	35.8	2.8
Aggravated	594,600	1,883,600	26.3	9.9	2.7
Completed w/injury	165,800	512,700	7.3	2.7	2.7
Attempted w/weapon	184,200	538,400	8.2	2.8	2.9
Threatened w/weapon	244,500	832,500	10.8	4.4	2.5
Simple	1,690,600	4,960,300	74.9	25.9	2.9
With injury	418,100	1,047,900	18.5	5.5	3.4
Without injury	667,700	1,678,700	29.6	8.8	3.4
Verbal threat of assault	604,700	2,233,700	26.8	11.7	2.3

* Estimate is based on fewer than 10 cases.

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. This table excludes series crimes (i.e., six or more individual crimes of a similar nature that occurred within a six-month period for which the victim was unable to distinguish details separately) and crimes occurring outside the U.S.

Source: Authors' analysis of data presented in Hashima and Finkelhor's *Violent victimization of youth versus adults in the National Crime Victimization Survey*.

About 1 in 7 juvenile arrests in 1995 was for a crime involving violence or the threat of violence

In 1995 law enforcement agencies made more than 2.7 million arrests of persons under the age of 18 — in 23% of these arrests the person was age 17 and in 69% the youth was white

Most serious offense charged	Estimated number of juvenile arrests	Percent of total juvenile arrests					
		Age 12 & younger	Age 17	White	Black	Native American	Asian
Total	2,745,000	9%	23%	69%	28%	1%	2%
Crime Index total	885,100	12	20	66	31	1	2
Violent Crime Index	147,700	8	26	48	49	1	1
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	3,300	3	39	39	58	1	2
Forcible rape	5,500	11	24	54	45	1	1
Robbery	55,500	6	26	38	60	1	2
Aggravated assault	83,500	9	25	56	42	1	1
Property Crime Index	737,400	13	19	69	27	1	2
Burglary	135,800	12	20	73	24	1	1
Larceny-theft	510,600	15	18	70	27	1	2
Motor vehicle theft	80,500	4	21	58	38	2	2
Arson	10,500	35	9	79	18	1	1
Nonindex offenses							
Other assaults	215,700	13	20	62	35	1	2
Forgery and counterfeiting	8,800	3	45	79	19	1	2
Fraud	25,100	4	29	55	42	1	3
Embezzlement	1,300	3	56	65	32	1	2
Stolen property buying, receiving, possessing	42,800	6	27	60	37	1	2
Vandalism	139,600	19	17	80	17	1	2
Weapons carrying, possessing, etc.	56,300	8	27	63	34	1	2
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,300	5	44	64	33	1	2
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	16,100	18	15	70	28	1	1
Drug abuse violations	189,800	2	36	64	35	1	1
Gambling	1,600	3	39	21	77	0	2
Offenses against the family and children	6,900	8	24	71	26	1	2
Driving under the influence	14,900	2	66	91	6	2	1
Liquor laws	120,000	1	45	91	5	3	1
Drunkenness	20,600	2	46	87	10	2	1
Disorderly conduct	173,900	9	22	64	35	1	1
Vagrancy	3,500	4	33	64	35	1	1
All other offenses (except traffic)	420,300	7	29	69	28	1	2
Suspicion	2,000	6	28	80	19	0	0
Curfew and loitering law violations	149,800	5	20	76	21	1	2
Runaways	249,500	8	9	77	19	1	3
U.S. population ages 10–17	29,929,000	38	12	79	15	1	4

- About 1 in 8 juvenile arrests in 1995 was for either an alcohol or drug offense, with arrests roughly evenly spread over these two categories.
- While juveniles below age 13 were involved in 9% of all juvenile arrests (i.e., persons below age 18), these young juveniles were involved in greater proportions of arrests for arson (35%), vandalism (19%), nonviolent sex offense (18%), larceny-theft (15%), simple assault (13%), burglary (12%), and forcible rape (11%).
- Black youth were 15% of the juvenile population in 1995 and involved in 28% of all juvenile arrests. Black youth were most disproportionately involved in arrests for murder (58%), forcible rape (45%), robbery (60%), aggravated assault (42%), motor vehicle theft (38%), fraud (42%), and gambling (77%).

Source: Authors' analysis of data presented in the FBI's *Crime in the United States 1995*. National estimates of juvenile arrests were developed using FBI estimates of total arrests and juvenile arrest proportions in reporting sample.

After consistently increasing from 1985 to 1994, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate declined in 1995

For the first time in 8 years the juvenile violent crime arrest rate declined in 1995

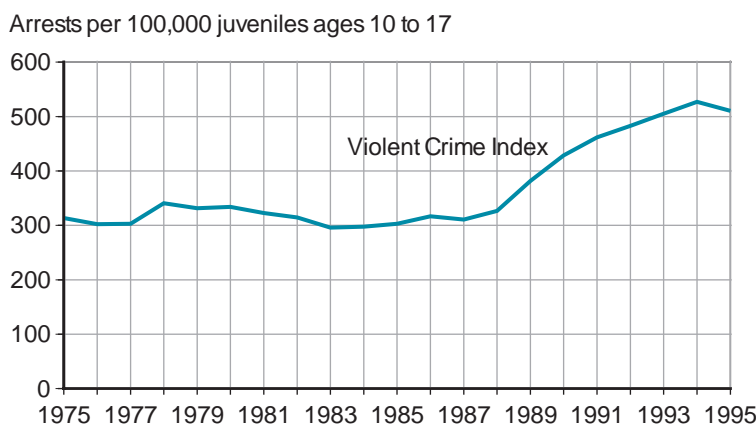
The FBI monitors the level of violent crime and trends in violent crime arrests by aggregating information on four crimes — murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Together, these four offenses are the Violent Crime Index. While each may display its own pattern of change, historically the Violent Crime Index has been the Nation's barometer of violent crime.

In recent years, the large annual increases in the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate have focused the Nation's attention on this problem. Between 1987 and 1994 the rate increased 70%. After years of increases, however, the rate declined slightly in 1995, down 3%. While this decline still leaves the juvenile violent crime arrest rate in 1995 substantially above the levels of the mid-1980's, even a small decline after years of consistently large increases is welcome news.

A greater proportion of violent crimes were attributed to juveniles in 1994 and 1995 than in any of the last 20 years

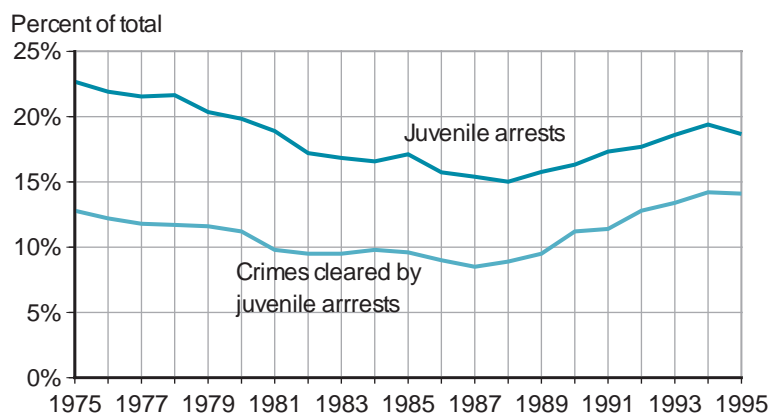
A portion of all violent crimes reported to police are cleared, or solved, by law enforcement. In 1995 the FBI reports that law enforcement agencies cleared 45% of reported Violent Crime Index offenses — more specifically 65% of murders, 51% of forcible rapes, 25% of robberies, and 56% of aggravated assaults. If cleared crimes are representative of all crimes, then the proportion of these crimes cleared by juvenile arrests should provide an indication of

The juvenile violent crime arrest rate dropped in 1995, breaking a multiyear trend of increases



- The 1995 arrest rate implies that one in every 200 persons between age 10 and 17 was arrested in the U.S. in 1995 for a violent crime.

The juvenile proportion of violent crime arrests in 1995 was slightly above the average for the last 20 years



- In 1995, 19% of persons entering the justice system via arrest for an alleged violent crime were under age 18.
- Viewing the juvenile clearance statistics in another way, between 1975 and 1995, adults (persons age 18 and over) were annually responsible for between 86% and 91% of all violent crime in the U.S.

Source: Authors' calculation of arrest rates using unpublished 1975–1995 arrest counts and reporting population data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program and the U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the 1975–1995 resident population of the U.S. in single years of age [machine-readable data files]. Juvenile arrest proportions were derived from the unpublished 1975–1995 arrest counts. The juvenile clearance proportions were taken from the FBI's *Crime in the United States* series.

Even with the decline in juvenile arrests for violent crimes in 1995, the number of arrests was still two-thirds greater than a decade earlier

Offense	Percent change in juvenile arrests		
	1986–1995	1991–1995	1994–1995
Violent Crime Index	67%	12%	-3%
Murder	90	-9	-14
Forcible Rape	-4	-12	-4
Robbery	63	18	-1
Aggravated assault	78	11	-3
Simple assault	111	36	3
Weapons	75	13	-12
Drug abuse	115	50	18

- Juvenile arrests for forcible rape remained relatively constant over the 10-year period, especially when compared to other offenses in the Violent Crime Index

Source: Authors' adaptation of data presented in the FBI's *Crime in the United States 1995*.

the proportion of violent crimes committed by juveniles.

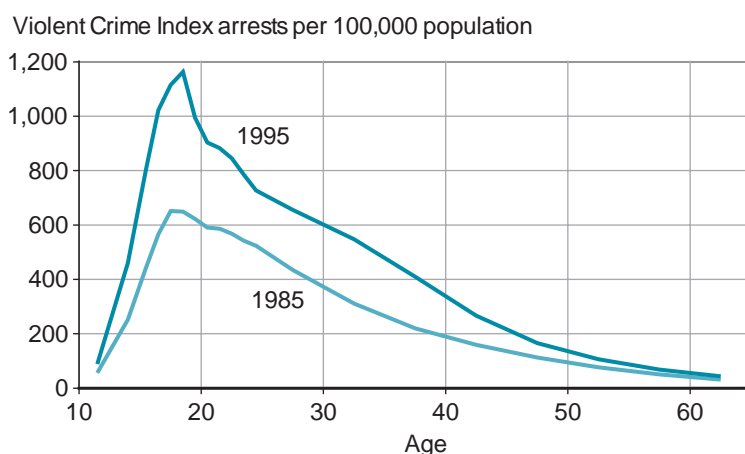
In both 1994 and 1995, 14% of violent crimes cleared by law enforcement were cleared by the arrest of a juvenile. Based on these statistics, juveniles were responsible for a greater proportion of the Nation's violent crime problem in 1994 and 1995 than in any other year in the previous two decades. The juvenile responsibility was nearly as high in 1975 (13%). However, the level gradually declined after 1975 reaching a low point in 1987 (9%), then increasing through 1994.

The story behind the decline in juvenile violent crime arrests gives some hope for the future

In relative terms the decline in juvenile arrests was small, but the nature of the decline gives hope. The decline in violent crime arrests in 1995 was led by declines in the arrests of younger juveniles. Overall, violent crime arrests of juveniles ages 15 to 17 fell by 2% between 1994 and 1995, while arrests of younger juveniles dropped 5%.

If the level of delinquency of young juveniles is correlated with the level of similar behavior as they age, the lower violent crime arrest rate of the younger juveniles in 1995 indicates that their levels of violence at ages 15 to 17 are likely to be below those of 15- to 17-year-olds in 1995. If so, more declines in juvenile violence should be expected in upcoming years. However, there has only been one year of decline — and one point of change does not by itself make a trend.

The increase in violent crime arrests between 1985 and 1995 was not just a juvenile phenomenon — violent crime increased significantly in all age groups



- Between 1985 and 1995 violent crime arrest rates increased between 70% and 90% for persons ages 15–18 and 30–39. Even the violent crime arrest rates for persons between ages 50 and 64 increased 40%.

Source: Authors' calculation of arrest rates using unpublished 1975–1995 arrest counts and reporting population data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program and the U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the 1975–1995 resident population of the U.S. in single years of age [machine-readable data files].

Juveniles, even juvenile gang members, are most likely to commit violent crimes after school

Juveniles are more likely to commit violent crimes on school days than on nonschool days

About half of the days in a year are school days. The other days fall in summer months, on weekends, and on holidays. Even though school days are half of all days, 57% of violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school days. In fact, data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) show that 1 in 5 violent crimes committed by juveniles occur in the four hours following the end of the school day (i.e., between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.).

On nonschool days the incidence of juvenile violence increases through the afternoon and early evening hours, peaking between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Temporal patterns of adult violence do not vary between school and nonschool days. Adult violence increases through the afternoon and evening hours, peaking around 11 p.m.

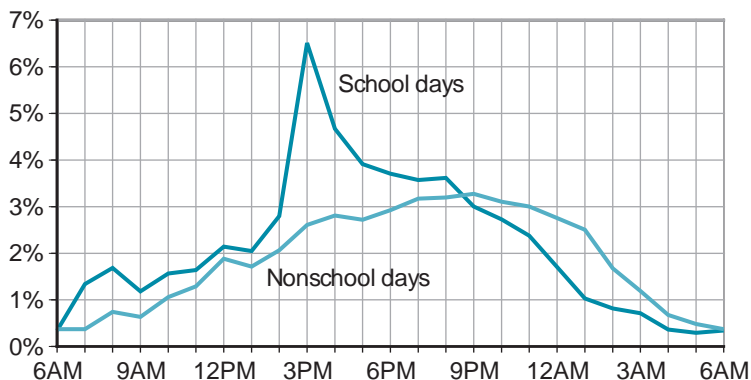
Similar time-of-day trends are found for juvenile gang crime

Intervention programs to reduce juvenile violence often target juveniles in gangs, while after-school programs may be appropriate for the general delinquency population. The temporal patterns of juvenile gang behavior may differ from those of other juvenile offenders.

This notion has been explored by researchers at the University of California-Irvine. In 1994 and 1995 law enforcement agencies across Orange County, California (a county neighboring Los Angeles) reported each incident of gang activity to the University's Focused Research Group on Orange County Street Gangs. A large number of these incidents involve an

Violent Crime Index offending peaks after school for juveniles

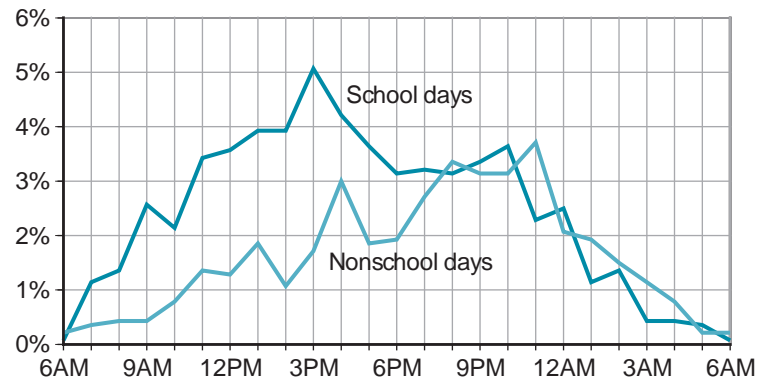
Percent of all juvenile Violent Crime Index offenses



Source: Authors' analysis of the FBI's 1991, 1992, and 1993 National Incident Based Reporting System master file [machine-readable data file] containing data from 8 States (Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Utah).

Gang crimes by juveniles in Orange County, California, are more common on school days, with their incidence peaking at 3 p.m.

Percent of all juvenile gang crimes



Source: Authors' analysis of data reported in Wiebe's *Hourly juvenile and adult arrest incidents in 1994 and 1995*.

arrest and, therefore, can be tagged to a juvenile or an adult.

A study of the gang incidents involving juveniles shows similar temporal patterns to those found in the NIBRS data. In Orange County in 1994 and 1995, gang activity involving juveniles was most prevalent on school

days, with 60% of all juvenile gang incidents occurring on these days. As with the NIBRS data, juvenile gang crime peaked on these days immediately after school. Unlike the general juvenile violence trends found in the NIBRS data, though, the level of juvenile gang violence did not decline as rapidly during evening hours.